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Message Text

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APPROVED BY EA - MR. INGERSOLL
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R 222148Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058190

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: AS,PFOR, UNGA, OVIP (WILLESEE)
SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN FONMIN TO ATTEND SPECIAL UNGA SESSION;
AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN UNGA PRESIDENCY

1. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR SHAW ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CANBERRA ADVISED ASST. SECRETARY INGERSOLL MARCH 21 THAT AUSTRALIAN FONMIN WILLESEE PROBABLY WILL ATTEND SPECIAL UNGA SESSION WEEK OF APRIL 21 AND HOPES MEET WITH THE SECRETARY SHOULD LATTER BE IN NEW YORK AT THAT TIME. INGERSOLL NOTED SECRETARY, ON PRESENT PLANS, PROBABLY WOULD BE IN NEW YORK APRIL 15-16, AND OUT OF COUNTRY WEEK OF 21ST. SHAW SUGGESTED WILLESEE'S TRAVEL PLANS MAY BE FLEXIBLE AND LEFT STRONG IMPRESSION HE WILL RECOMMEND CHANGE IN WILLESEE'S SCHEDULE TO COINCIDE WITH SECRETARY'S PRESENCE IN NEW YORK.

2. SHAW ALSO SAID WILLESEE WILL PROBABLY WISH MAKE ANOTHER TRIP TO US, MAINLY FOR WASHINGTON MEETINGS TO INCLUDE THE SECRETARY, BEFORE PM WHITLAM'S ANTICIPATED VISIT TO US IN SEPTEMBER IN CONNECTION REGULAR UNGA.

3. SHAW THEN TOOK UP QUESTION OF UNGA PRESIDENCY IN 1975.
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NOTING IT WILL BE WEO "TURN" FOR PRESIDENCY, HE SAID CON-

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SIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN BY GOA TO SEEKING WEO SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIAN CANDIDATE. GOA RECOGNIZED AN AUSTRALIAN (EVATT) HAD ALREADY SERVED AS UNGA PRESIDENT, BUT INITIAL

AUSTRALIAN PROBINGS INDICATE NO PRESENT INTEREST BY OTHER WEO GOVERNMENTS IN PROFFERING A CANDIDATE, INCLUDING THOSE WEO MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED AN UNGA PRESIDENT. FINAL DECISION ON MATTER WOULD BE TAKEN ONLY AFTER IT CLEAR WEO WOULD SUPPORT AUSTRALIAN CANDIDATE. SHAW SAID SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIAN CANDIDATE WOULD BE SOUGHT ON BASIS AUSTRALIAN EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN UN, SUPPORT FOR UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, AND GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN AGENCIES. HE ALSO NOTED LABOR GOVERNMENT'S STRONG DESIRE FOR GREATER AUSTRALIAN INVOLVEMENT IN AND SUPPORT FOR UN THAN WAS CASE WITH PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT.

4. IN CONNECTION FOREGOING, SHAW SAID GOA WOULD WELCOME US SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIAN CANDIDACY. ASST. SECRETARY INGERSOLL NOTED CANDIDACY A MATTER FOR WEO TO DETERMINE. SHAW REPLIED HE UNDERSTOOD THIS BUT HOPED THAT, IF QUERIED BY WEO MEMBERS ON US ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE AUSTRALIAN CANDIDACY, US REACTION WOULD BE FAVORABLE. SHAW AND INGERSOLL AGREED TO STAY IN TOUCH ON THIS MATTER.

5. IN CLOSING, SHAW EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO EARLY COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY, ESPECIALLY BEFORE ANY MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND FONMIN WILLESEE. INGERSOLL NOTED TIGHTNESS SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE IN COMING WEEKS BUT SAID HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO. KISSINGER

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